Evaluation of benefits accruing out of Customs duty

*209. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a monitoring cell to evaluate the benefit passed on to the consumer due to exemption and concession in customs duty; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Establishment of Wind Power Stations at Kanyakumari

*210. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new sites have been selected at Kanyakumari for the establishment of wind power stations; and

(b) if so, what is the total capacity of the wind power stations that are already functioning in Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Wind power programme is implemented with the assistance of the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources as demonstration programme through various State nodal agencies in the country. In addition, in Tamil Nadu, because of the facilities given by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, private sector entreprenuers are also installing wind electric generators in the State. A large number of private sector wind electric generators are located in Kanyakumari District. No new sites have been selected at Kanyakumari as part of the demonstration programme presently under implementation. Proposals for installing wind electric generators by private parties are approved by Tamil Nadu Electricity Board directly.

Wind data recorded at Sembagramanpudur and Katadimalai sites in Kanyakumari district indicate good potential for setting up wind power projects.

(b) As on 31-03-92, wind power projects of 8.84 MW aggregate capacity are functioning in Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts; of which 3.25 MW capacity has been set up by the private sector in these two districts.

Opposition to Dunkel proposals by Pharmaceutical Industry

@ *211. SHRI J. P. JAVALI:

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pharmaceutical industry and insecticide manufacturers are completely opposed to Dunkel proposals;

(b) if so, what are their objections and to what extent Government have found them substantial;

(c) whether, it is a fact that Dunkel proposals are not amendable as they have suggested "Leave it or accept it as it is";

(d) what are the consequences of acceptance or rejection of Dunkel proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The main elements of objections to the compromise proposals of DG GATT in respect of the Uruguay Round of Negotiations in the area of trade related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) expressed by the pharmaceutical and chemical industry groups relate to patents. The proposals are being opposed mainly on the grounds that (a) prices of affected commodities would increases substantially; (b) importation being treated as working of the patent

@ Previously Starred Quesition of 71, transferred from the 30th April, 1992.